

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A toothbrush has an inner handle part having an outer end, an outer handle part having an outer end remote from the inner handle part and an inner end juxtaposed with the inner-part outer end, bristles on the outer-part outer end, and a releasable ball-and-socket joint between the inner-part outer end and the inner-part inner end. This joint releasably secures the handle parts together and can open and release when a lateral force is applied to the outer-part outer end that exceeds a predetermined safe brushing force.